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Elks Club Releases Text of the Winning Essay on Constitution

Winner in the annual Elks Club essay contest on the U.S. Constitution has been awarded to Faith Ann "Winkie" Gilbert, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Gilbert, of 133 Via Alameda, in Hollywood Riviera. Winkie, an eighth grader at the Parkway Elementary School, submitted the following essay:

"The ability to think and reason is said to be the biggest difference between a human being and an animal. I think that our constitution demonstrates these God-given abilities to the highest degree. For under it, every citizen has an opportunity to realize his greatest opportunities.

"My father served seven and a half years in the navy, including the entire period of World War II. He considered it an investment for my fu-

ture and for all the children in America. He told me when I was a little girl that it was a privilege to live in the United States and to have the freedoms we enjoy. It is our constitution which guarantees these freedoms and privileges.

"He also told me that freedom carries responsibility. We are responsible for living in accordance with our laws. These are the rules of our society, created for the protection of all, so everyone can enjoy the same freedoms equally. We also have the responsibility of defending our country and its constitution when it is under attack from any source.

"I am very thankful that my father came home from the war unhurt. But there are many other boys and girls not

so lucky, whose fathers gave their lives for what they believed in. From our history books I learned that many people have died to create and preserve the rights we have under our constitution.

"I don't know about the political side of how our constitution was created. But even in the beginning, when our early colonists were planning how our country should be run, there was freedom for differences of opinion. As much as some of them wanted to govern themselves, they still wanted to remain loyal to the king of England. Still others wanted to be completely free and establish their own form of government independently.

"But this desire for freedom and independence goes even farther back to the time when our pilgrim fathers first left England and went to Holland in order that they might worship God as they saw fit. Not wishing their children to become Hollanders, they struggled to raise the money for a ship which would take them to the new world. Here they could be as English as they wanted to and to begin a new form of government, which would give them freedoms of which they had only dared to dream before.

"Even in the new world all the people did not agree all the time. But through the freedom of speech and freedom for peaceful assembly, they had a chance to work out these differences. And though they still were not entirely in agreement, the largest number of people stuck together to win two wars against the British who threatened their independence.

"Under our constitution when enough people do not like the way things are run, they can vote to change the laws and vote for new officials to represent them.

"Finally differences became so great between two sections of our country that they were forced to take up arms to decide just which way would be right for all time to come. In spite of this great test, the constitution and all it stood for enabled the two sides to bind up their wounds and remain a strong, free country, with the respect of the other nations of the world. This was the only time when our way of

life was seriously threatened from within our own borders. My father said that whenever we are attacked, that in spite of our differences we stand together as one nation, just like a family unites in time of trouble. Lincoln once said, "United we stand, divided we fall."

"The constitution also represents the best way of settling differences — through compromise. From the example set by our constitution in solving its differences, many important decisions have been reached effecting both our country and our relations and the welfare of other countries throughout the world. One example was the League of Nations. And even though we did not join the League of Nations, we cooperated with it in many ways. But an even better example of nations working together by compromise was created after World War II. This is our present United Nations.

"From studying the constitution in our history books, I see it as the glue which bound many people together in their common struggle for freedom; it bound many little and big states together in their efforts to become a free, independent country; it mended the break in our unity after the Civil War; and now, by the principles it shows to other countries, it may some day bind the world together in a permanent peace. I think that the gift of freedom which God gave our forefathers when they created our constitution will some day be the means by which our world is saved from complete destruction."

From The Mailbox

Suppressed Desires

Editor, Torrance Herald:

Why do people of this great country of ours try to suppress the desires and interests of other people? It's more than I can comprehend.

For instance, people trying to stop others who have flying at heart and love to fly. What would people say if somebody came out with a petition for everyone to stop driving their cars because they are a menace, a nuisance, and contribute to the smog? That is just what they are trying to do to the fellows who love to fly. America was based on the heritage that people have freedom from suppression to enjoy life as they see fit.

Aviation is a tremendous industry with thousands of people depending on it for their jobs and careers on building airplanes and flying them. Our freedom and victory in World War II would be impossible without aviation. Aviation is progressing by leaps and bounds with more airplanes built every

day and more pilots to fly them.

So, let us not deter progress just because the people on the ground who do not fly would take away that privilege which belongs to all of us to fly the airplanes as those of us who drive cars or sail the boats and ships on the seas. Should we complain about them, too, because we just don't like to do it or it's dangerous?

I think the best bet is to have cooperation among the people who fly and the people who don't for that is what we call democracy. So let's live it that way. Isn't that a privilege, too?

The pilots who fly these airplanes realize the situation also, and the majority abide by the rules and regulations that are set by the CAA to make flying safe and sound, even if it is for pleasure flying.

May the future continue to be bright for those who fly for work or pleasure.

HENRY S. NOWAKOWSKI,
20946 Dalton Ave.
Torrance

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